

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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**EDRICK ROUSE,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**9:10-CV-108  
(GLS/DRH)**

**MICHAEL CORCORAN, Superintendent,  
Cayuga Correctional Facility; MS. JONES,  
Deputy Director Programs; P. KENNEDY,  
Guidance Counselor, Cayuga Correctional  
Facility; COLLINS, Christian Chaplain -  
Cayuga Correctional Facility; and  
MCCAFFIR, A.S.A.T. Correction Counselor,  
Cayuga Correctional Facility,**

**Defendants.**

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**APPEARANCES:**

**OF COUNSEL:**

**FOR THE PLAINTIFF:**

EDRICK ROUSE  
Last Known Address:  
09-B-0121  
Collins Correctional Facility  
P.O. Box 340  
Collins, New York 14034

**FOR THE DEFENDANTS:**

HON. ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Attorney General of the  
State of New York  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224-0341

DAVID L. COCHRAN, ESQ.  
Assistant Attorney General

**Gary L. Sharpe**  
**United States District Judge**

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The court cannot locate *pro se* plaintiff, Edrick Rouse. Accordingly, it considers *sua sponte* Rouse's noncompliance with this District's Local Rules by failing to notify the court of his current address and by not prosecuting his action. .

On January 29, 2010, Edrick Rouse filed a 1983 prisoner civil rights action. See *Dkt. No. 1*. On March 26, 2010, an order was issued granting the plaintiff's *in forma pauperis* application. At that time, he was advised of his obligation to adhere to the Federal and Local Rules even though he was a *pro se* litigant. See *Dkt. No. 4*. The plaintiff has not complied with this order. This district has expended considerable effort in order to familiarize *pro se* litigants with those Rules by reminding them of their obligations in various documents and orders mailed to them, and by preparing a Pro Se Handbook that is easily accessible. See <http://www.nynd.uscourts.gov>. In fact, copies of the Handbook have been provided to all prison libraries in the Northern District.

In relevant part, Local Rule ("L.R.") 10.1(b) provides:

**All ... pro se litigants must immediately notify the court of any change of address.** The notice of change of address is to be filed with the clerk of the court and served on all other parties to the action. The notice must identify each and every action for which the notice shall apply.... (emphasis in original).

In turn, L.R. 41.2(b) provides that the "[f]ailure to notify the Court of a change of address in accordance with L.R. 10.1(b) may result in the dismissal of any pending action."

L.R. 41.2(b) mirrors Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which affords the court discretionary authority to dismiss an action because of the failure to prosecute or to comply with any order of the court. *Link v. Wabash R.R. County Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 370 U.S. 626 (1962); see also, *Lyell Theater Corp. v. Loews Corp.*, 628 F. 2d 37 (2d Cir. 1982).

On November 12, 2010, the court sent notice to the plaintiff of a partial filing fee: \$3.96, receipt number syr025783. See *November 12, 2010 text entry*. Rouse's copy was mailed to his last known address, but was marked return to sender - refused - unable to forward - paroled on November 5, 2010. See *Dkt. No. 26*.

On December 9, 2010, the court issued an order directing Rouse to

notify the court within fourteen days of his current address and/or verify that his mailing address as listed in the caption of this order. See *Dkt. No. 27*. The court warned Rouse that his failure to comply with the order could result in dismissal for failure to comply with L.R. 10.1(b) and 41.2(b). Rouse's copy of the order was mailed to his last known address, but was marked returned to sender - paroled on November 5, 2010 - left no address (*Dkt. No. 28*).

For the orderly disposition of cases, it is essential that litigants honor their continuing obligation to keep the court informed of address changes. *Michaud v. Williams*, 98cv1141, 1999 WL 33504430, at \*1 (N.D.N.Y. Nov. 5, 1999) (citing *Fenza v. Conklin*, 177 F.R.D. 126 (N.D.N.Y. 1998) (Pooler, then D.J.). As Judge Pooler has observed:

It is neither feasible nor legally required that the clerks of the district courts undertake independently to maintain current addresses on all parties to pending actions. It is incumbent upon litigants to inform the clerk of address changes, for it is manifest that communications between the clerk and the parties or their counsel will be conducted principally by mail. In addition to keeping the clerk informed of any change of address, parties are obliged to make timely status inquiries. Address changes normally would be reflected by those inquiries if made in writing.

*Dansby v. Albany County Corr. Staff*, 95cv1525, 1996 WL 172699, \*1

(N.D.N.Y. Ap. 10, 1996) (citations omitted)).

As a matter of course, courts in this district have dismissed actions when litigants have failed to abide by either the Local Rules or orders related to address changes, and have subsequently failed to prosecute their actions. See *Williams v. Faulkner*, 95cv741, 1998 WL 278288 (N.D.N.Y. May 20, 1998); *Dansby*, 1996 WL 172699, at, \*1; *Fenza*, 177 F.R.D. at 126; cf. *Michaud*, 1999 WL 33504430, at \*1.

Rouse's failure to provide this court with a change of address warrants dismissal. Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows a court to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute. According, it is hereby

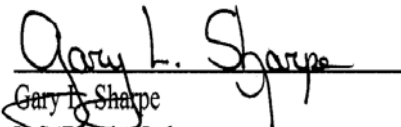
**ORDERED** that Rouse's complaint is **DISMISSED** for failure to notify the court of his current address, failure to prosecute and for failure to comply with this court's December 9 Order, and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Clerk of the Court serve copies of this Order to the parties by regular mail at the addresses listed in the caption; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Clerk serve plaintiff at his last known address.

**SO ORDERED.**

**Dated: December 28, 2010  
Albany, New York**

  
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Gary L. Sharpe  
U.S. District Judge